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The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 6, Issue 12
December, 2005

Calendar of Future Events

See Calendar on the last page for Current Events

Jan 2	Extension Office Closed for New Year Holiday
Jan 3, 9:30 am	York County Water Stewards planning meeting, York Extension Office conference room
Jan 10, 9:00 am	Peninsula Master Gardener Training planning meeting, Northside Christian Church
Jan 11, 9:30-11:30 am	County Property Inventory planning meeting, York Extension Office conference room
Jan 18, noon	HearSay radio gardening show, WHRO 89.5 FM
Jan 20-22	Virginia Flower and Garden Show, www.vafgs.org
Jan 31-Feb 3	Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course, www.mahsc.org
Mar 1-5, 2006	46th Annual Southern Spring Home & Garden Show, Charlotte Merchandise Mart, Charlotte, NC
Mar 3, 2006-noon	Southern Cooperative Extension & Master Gardener Day Luncheon and Program
Mar 11, 2006	Good Gardening Symposium: "How to Revitalize the Garden---and the Gardener"
June 8-11	2006 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940, or Kris Wessler at 988-0616 or E-mail jwessler@earthlink.net (Put Green Thumb in the subject line). The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m:

The first Thursday of each month we start with a planning meeting in the Environmental Services Building and then are in the garden, time permitting.

- Please note that the December Programming meeting will be held in the big room of St. Luke's, 9:30, on Dec 13th. We will have a special program and a pot-luck lunch. Drinks and paper goods will be provided; bring a dish to share. We will also have a plant exchange for those that wish to participate. **Don't forget items for the church Food Pantry!**

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, Age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

Jaeuun Cho, an international baccalaureate student at York High, has been working as a volunteer intern at the York County Extension Office. She is interested in Horticulture and is seeking experience through our educational mission. You will see Jaeuun at several of our educational functions.

In an effort to encourage and facilitate Master Gardeners to answer the phones, I am developing teaching teams to train and familiarize Master Gardeners with the office, as well as, supporting the office with easy to access questions and answers on the York County Extension website. The new training opportunities will be available in 2006.

At the November 29th monthly meeting, I passed out the program (draft) flow chart. I have asked individuals to let me know if I have slotted them into their proper jobs. I am attaching a copy for your review. Please let me know if you have corrections. On December 13 I will release the draft form of the flow chart and the roster. The final copy will be mailed in January 2006 for your reference.

Two great educational opportunities occur in January that you might want to put on your calendar.

January 20 – 22 / The Virginia Flower and Garden Show www.vafgs.org

January 30 – February 1 / Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Short Course www.mahsc.org

These educational programs will expose you to a broad array of classes, professional contacts, and give you a feel for the direction of horticulture in the Tidewater Area. The Flower and Garden Show is held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion. The Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Conference will be held at the Oceanfront Ramada Plaza Resort Conference Center. I trust that you will consider attendance at these events. Further information and a schedule of classes are available online.

I encourage attendance at these trainings and this goes towards your continuing training if you are a master gardener. To further encourage attendance; I will pay half of your registration fee. These funds are made available through the local budget provided to us by the York County Board of Supervisors. The Board values the continuing education of our volunteers. The other option that you have for payment of your registration fee is to sign up to be a moderator during the week. You can contact Mike Andruzcyk, MakeAnd@vt.edu, or call at 757-382-6348. I will pay your moderator registration fee of \$25. Deadline: December 20.

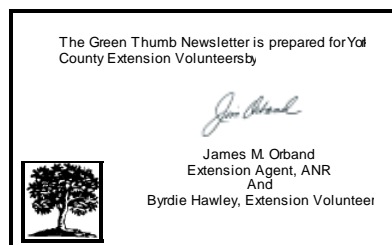
In order to receive the scholarship you must:

- Meet the deadline to turn your registration form into the Extension Office by December 20. Include the balance at the time you submit your application. [Example: If you plant to attend 2 days at \$160, you write a check to the TVHF for \$80.] Make sure all of your information is complete. I will submit for the payment of the balance.
- Attend the full day(s) of the conference that you are registered. (I do not check this.)
- Write a brief review for submission to the Green Thumb.
- Send a Thank You note to your Board member indicating the value of this conference for your education.

Please consider either of these trainings. I hope that one or both might fit into your calendar.

Be sure to listen to “Gardening HearSay” on December 14, 12:00–1:00 pm on WHRO – 89.5.

Thanks, Jim



VIRGINIA *Flower & Garden* SHOW

"MAGICAL GARDENS"

JANUARY 20-22, 2006

www.vafgs.org

Something new this year: Container Garden Competition. Check out the web site above to register. Also, moderators are needed. Contact Mike Andruczyk at MikeAnd@vt.edu or 382-6348 to sign up.

MID-ATLANTIC HORTICULTURE SHORT COURSE

January 30-Feb. 1, 2006

Sponsored by the Virginia Horticultural Foundation

We Need a Few Good Volunteers To Serve As Program Moderators.

To review the program visit www.mahsc.org or check in your local Extension office. Contact Mike Andruczyk at mikeand@vt.edu, or 382-6348 if interested in moderating this event.

NEW MASTER GARDENERS

On November 15th, the 2005 Peninsula Master Gardener Class graduated! York County has 12 new Master Gardener interns. They are: Laura Couillard, Tom Dunmire, Pat English, Michelle Gazarik, Jane Gustin, Anita Lee, Jan Puliafico, Carol Tate, Nancy Thompson, Carol Tolson, Dave Weiss, and Kris Wessler.

We all welcome them into the York County Master Gardener Unit!!

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY GROUP AT YORK CONVALESCENT CENTER

113 Battle Road, Yorktown, VA 23692

The next session will be **December 27, 2005 at 10:15 AM**. Contact Brenda Bradshaw to volunteer: 898-4733 or email C.Bradshaw@att.net. **Volunteers are needed** monthly to pick up flowers at Farm Fresh, Kiln Creek and Floral Fashions in Poquoson. Assistance in preparing the floral supplies would also be appreciated, as well as donations of wet foam, plastic laundry caps or other floral supplies. Also, **congrats to Anita Lee**, who will be the new Committee Coordinator beginning January 2006. I know that she will do a fantastic job!

Much appreciation to the **many volunteers** who participated throughout the year. Also, many **thanks to Jim and Jody** for their support.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season and a peaceful and safe NEW YEAR.

The 4th Annual Good Gardening symposium is slated for Saturday March 11 2006 at Prince George High School in Prince George. The title is **"How to Revitalize the Garden---and the Gardener"**.

Fee is \$10, pre-registration required, registration forms available February 1, 2006.



Virginia Master Gardener License Plates

As of today, we have only received 92 applications for the Virginia Master Gardener License Plate. We need 258 more before the deadline of December 28. Many have been putting this off - don't put it off any longer. Please send in your application ASAP. Also encourage your other MG friends to send in their applications. The forms are available on the Norfolk Master Gardener web site www.nmgv.org.

Questions regarding our VMG license plates should be directed to Tom Bolt at 757-459-2019 or e-mail him at tombolt@cox.net.

PLEASE HELP - TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

PHOTOS NEEDED: As our America's Anniversary Garden committee continues to develop new publications and resources relating to the AAG concept, we are in need of color photographs. Currently we are looking for high-resolution photos of fall color (red, white, and blue) that coincides with the concept. The color can be shown in a wide array of ways. . . fruit, foliage, flowers, bark, etc. If you have any or know of a VCE MG Volunteer with photos they would like to submit for possible inclusion in Extension material, please send them to me. Color negatives are preferred but digital photos are acceptable. If you submit digital, please make sure they are taken at the highest possible resolution. Appropriate credit will be given for photos actually used in Extension pubs or web resources. Please share this with all of your VCE MGs.

Important Information Regarding the Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab

The Soil Testing Lab will be shut down for 2 to 3 weeks starting Dec. 19, 2005 and ending by Jan. 6, 2006. During this time the lab will not be able to use any of its instruments or its office space. We will not be able to answer our telephones or have access to our normal computers.

The lab will also need time to prepare for this beforehand and get geared up again afterwards. If someone wants to have results by the end of this year, then they should probably have samples to the lab by December 2, (and that has no guarantee). During this "shut down", lab personnel will attempt to continue to receive, set-up and prepare soil samples for later analysis, and to get some of the sample information sheets entered into the lab's database, (viewable on-line at <https://www.ext.vt.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/soils.woa/wa/default> once entered).

VT's Physical Plant just set these dates as the time to redo the drop ceiling and lights for most of the lab space. This replacement was triggered by the construction that has taken place surrounding the laboratory this year. Starting this past June the lab's very old ceiling has been falling down. Some Physical Plant personnel have described it as the worst ceiling that they have ever seen. So, it was decided to replace it rather than repair it anymore. Additionally, many of our windows have been walled up, leaving the lab with half the lighting that a lab is normally designed to have. Please share this information with others.

Steve Heckendorn, Manager

Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab, (540) 231-6893 www.soiltest.vt.edu



December 2005



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			30 Live Christmas Decorations Preparation, Grace Episcopal Church	1	2 9:30-11:30 am, Intern Phone Training 7-9pm, Holiday Tree Lighting	3 10-7 am, Yorktown Celebrates Open House - Yorktown
4	5 9-3pm, Pesticide Recertification, Hampton Library, Register, 591- 4838	6 9:30-11:30 am, Intern Phone Training Jody on Leave until Dec 15	7 9:00-12am: YCMG Advanced Pruning Class, St. Luke's Meth- odist, contact jgustin@aol.com	8 1:00-4:00pm: Caring for Large Trees in the Landscape, Learning Garden	9 4:30 pm, Dave Close visit to York County	10
11	12 9:30-11:30 am, Intern Phone Training	13 9:30 am, Programming meeting-Pot Luck Lunch – special program	14 12:00-1:00 WHRO-89.5 “GARDENING HEARSAY”	15 9:30-12am: YCMG Advanced Pruning Class Field Session, Learning Garden	16	17
18	19	20 6pm, MAHSC meeting, Ramada Inn	21 9:30-12am: YCMG Advanced Pruning Class Field Session, Learning Garden	22	23 Extension Office Closed	24
25 Christmas	26 Extension Office Closed	27 10:15AM Hort Therapy – York Convalescent Ctr, contact c.bradshaw@att.net	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve!!